

## Memorandum

Date: August 29, 1977  
To: Division File  
From: Kenneth Bechely KAB  
Subject: Cook County - L.P.C. 03104505 C-78-27  
Chicago Heights/Triem Emergency Response

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



360899

On August 9, 1977 this office received a call from the Agency's Episode and Emergency Response Unit in Springfield, regarding a possible gas problem adjacent to the subject site.

I was notified on the afternoon of August 9, 1977, and made an on-site investigation on the morning of August 10, 1977. Upon my arrival I was met by Mr. Edward Ojekowski, a Northern Illinois Gas Co. leak inspector. The problem area lies directly north of the site's northern boundary, along 26th Street.

Mr. Ojekowski indicated that he had taken three gas samples, the first from the shower stall drain of a nearby residence, the second from the improperly sealed casing of an abandoned water well in a vacant lot just north of the site, and the third from a soil probe on the site's north boundary (see attached sheet for sample details). A gas meter indicated that there was a significant amount of gas at the sampling points.

While the samples had not been analyzed at that time Mr. Ojekowski was fairly certain that there was no major leak in the N.I. Gas lines. I was given the name of a supervisor to contact regarding the analysis results, would aid in determining the source of the gas, and then proceeded over to the landfill, since there was little left to do at 26th Street. Upon arriving at the site I was met by Mr. Leonard Triem, owner of the landfill. I informed Mr. Triem of the problem and the fact that his landfill may be the cause of the gas problem and that our investigation was proceeding. I noticed that one visible gas burner was inoperable at the time and suggested to Mr. Triem that he contact his foreman and have the gas burners reignited. Mr. Triem indicated that he did not believe that his site was causing a problem and that we should explore the possibility of the M.S.D. sludge lagoons, located to the south, as being the source. I said good-bye to Mr. Triem at that point.

On August 12, 1977, I received a call from Mr. Chuck Powers, of Northern Illinois Gas Co., regarding the results of the gas analysis. Mr. Powers indicated that although their chemists were somewhat bewildered with the results, they could safely say that the gas was not from a N.I.G.C. gas line.